THE NEW 52!
DC COMICS
18
NIGHTWING
REQUIEM
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ROGER BONET
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DCCOMICS.COM
RATED T TEEN
MAY 2013

THEN.
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE ONE WHO DOESN'T DWELL, ROBIN. I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE ROCK.
SO?
SO IF I'M NOT...THEN WHAT THE JOKER SAID ABOUT ME WAS RIGHT.
YOU GOT BURNED BY PEOPLE YOU LEANED ON.
GUESS WHAT? IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN AGAIN.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD STOP.
YOU TRUST PEOPLE, NIGHTWING. IT'S WHAT MAKES YOU...

"...WHO YOU ARE."
NOW.
After witnessing the murder of his parents, teenager Richard "Dick" Grayson was taken under Batman's wing and trained as Robin, the Dark Knight's partner in his war on crime. But when the boy became a man, he left the Batcave and now serves his own brand of justice!
DC COMICS™ PRESENTS: NIGHTWING IN
SLOW BURN
KYLE HIGGINS WRITER
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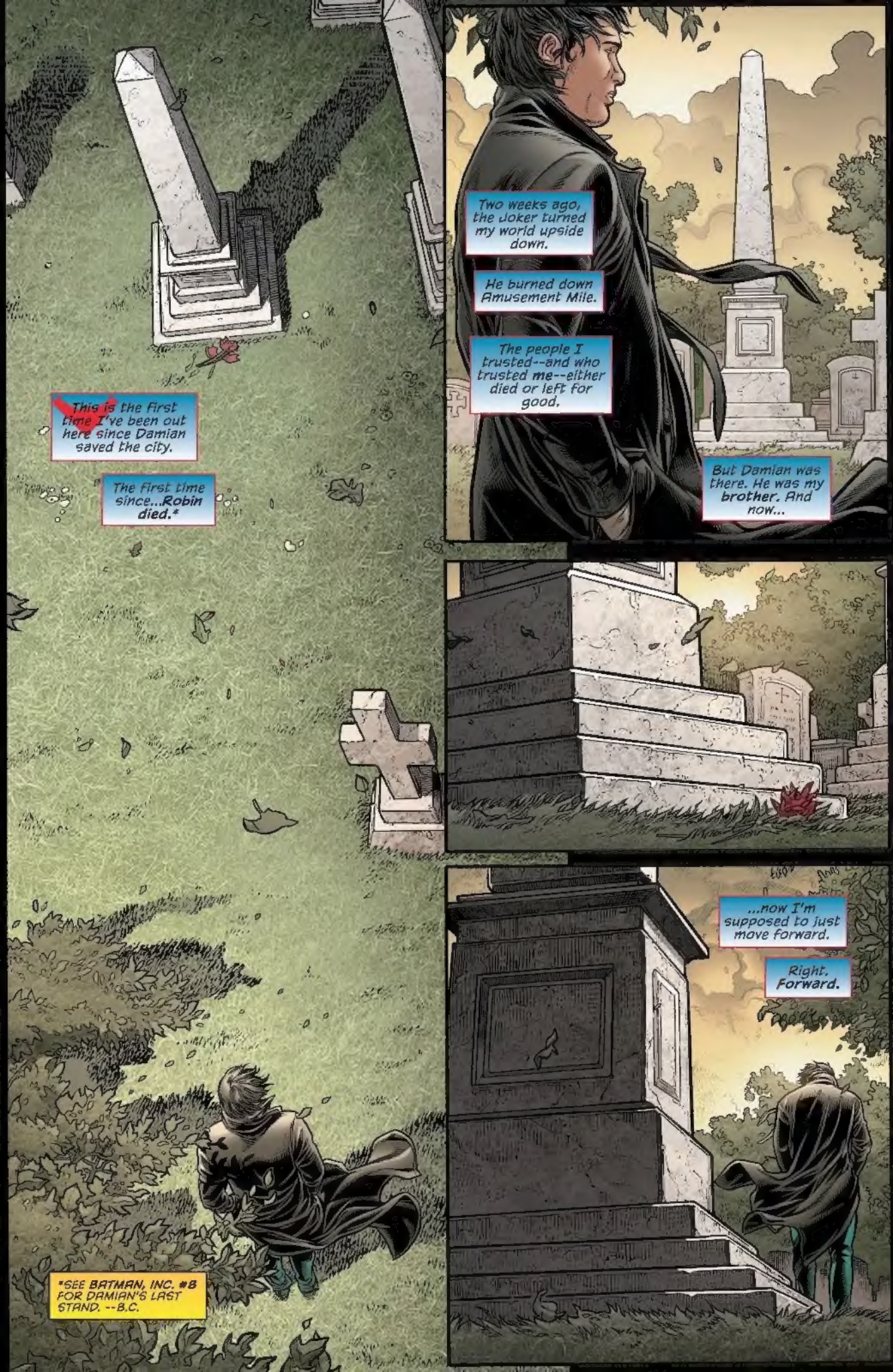
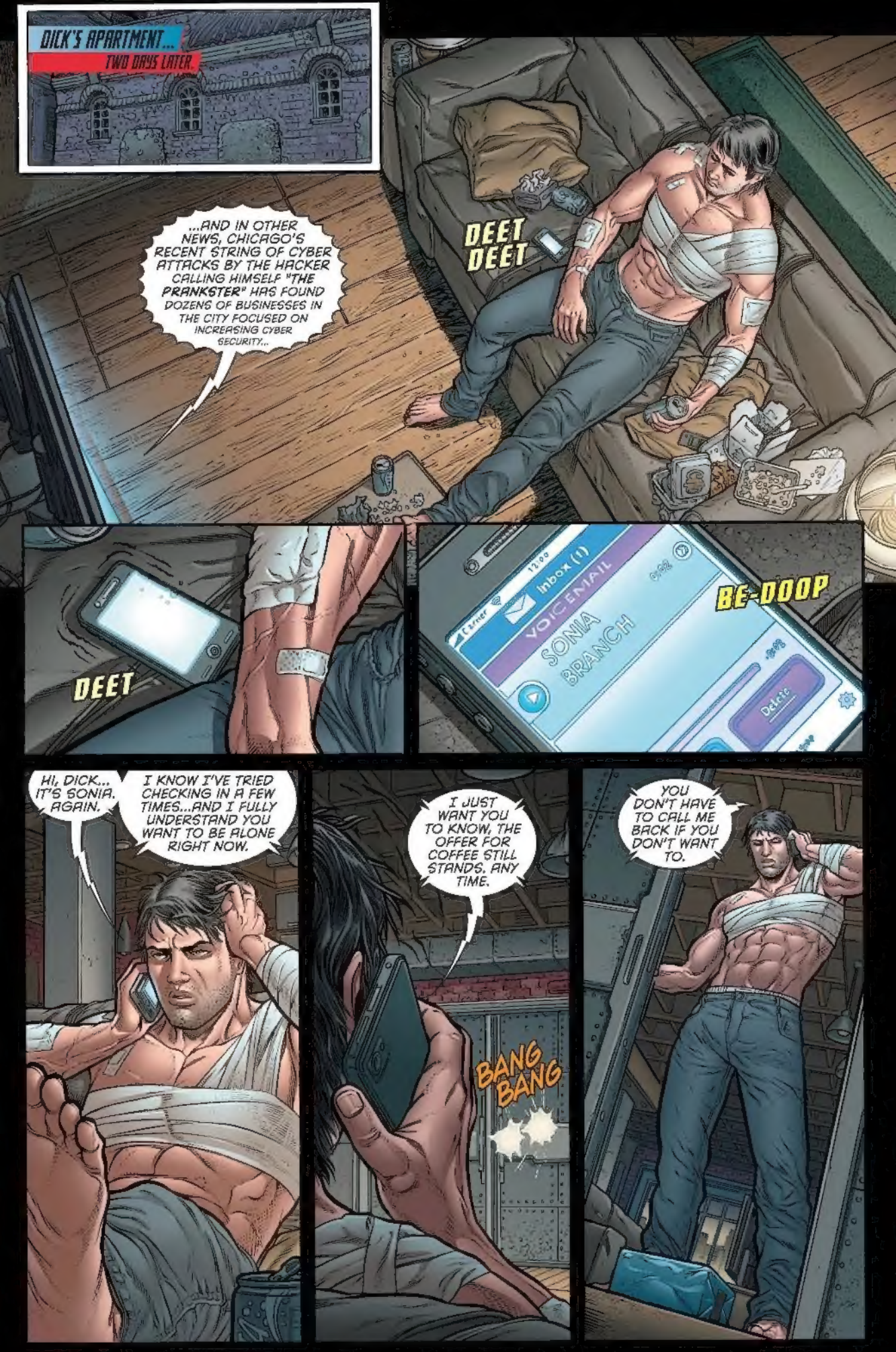
NIGHTWING CREATED BY MARV WOLFMAN AND GEORGE PÉREZ
I asked Alfred once if he thought I was a bad son.
I didn't set my clocks by the hour Tony Zucco cut my parents' trapeze lines.
I didn't visit their gravestones once a week.
I healed. I leaned on people and I moved forward.

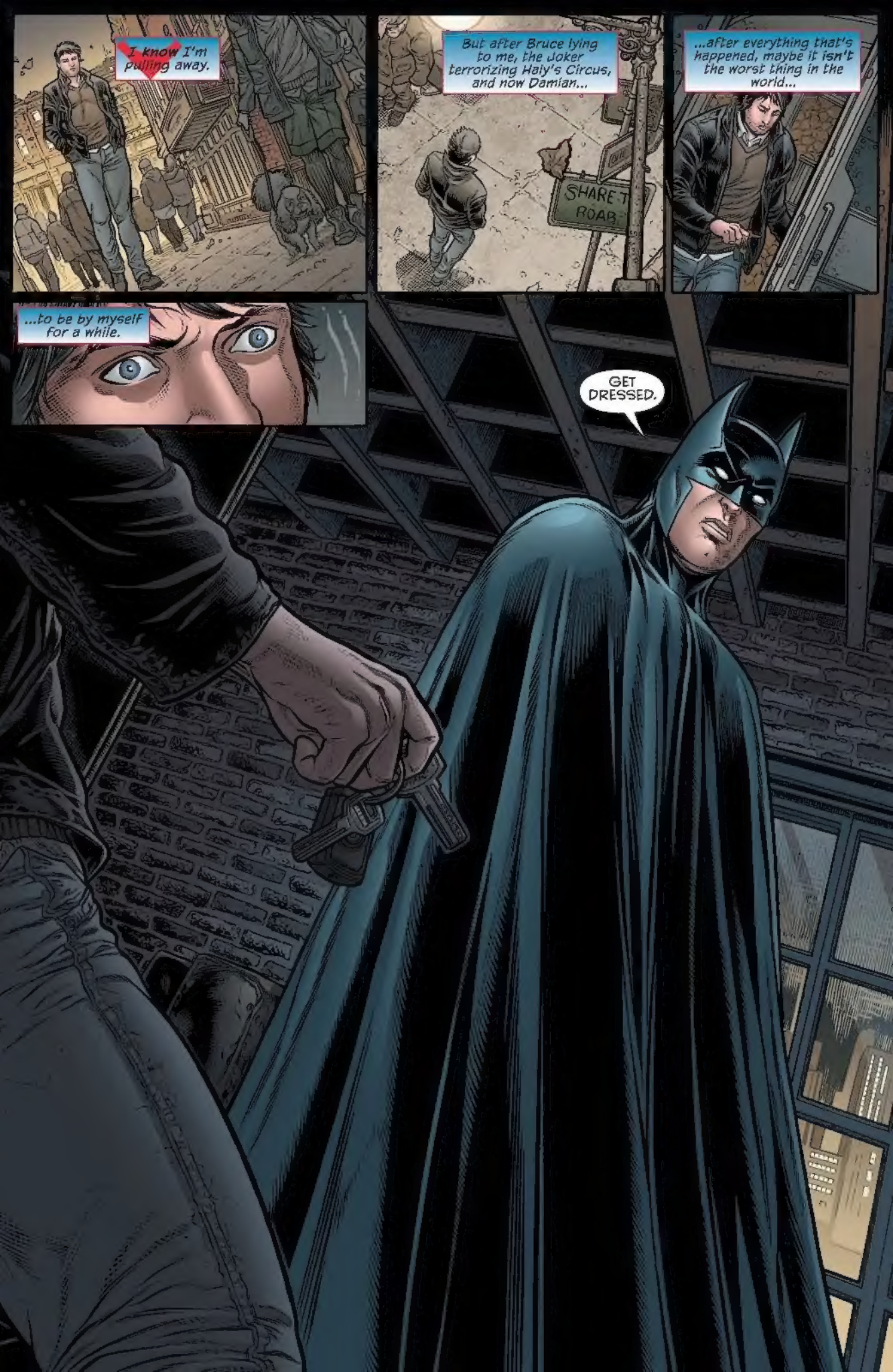

This is the first time I've been out here since Damian saved the city.
The first time since...Robin died.*
Two weeks ago, the Joker turned my world upside down.
He burned down Amusement Mile.
The people I trusted--and who trusted me--either died or left for good.
But Damian was there. He was my brother. And now...
...now I'm supposed to just move forward.
Right. Forward.
*SEE BATMAN, INC. #8 FOR DAMIAN'S LAST STAND. --B.C.


DICK'S APARTMENT...
TWO DAYS LATER.
...AND IN OTHER NEWS, CHICAGO'S RECENT STRING OF CYBER ATTACKS BY THE HACKER CALLING HIMSELF "THE PRANKSTER" HAS FOUND DOZENS OF BUSINESSES IN THE CITY FOCUSED ON INCREASING CYBER SECURITY...
DEET DEET
DEET
BE-DOOP
Inbox (1)
VOICEMAIL
SONIA BRANCH
Delete
HI, DICK... IT'S SONIA. AGAIN.
I KNOW I'VE TRIED CHECKING IN A FEW TIMES...AND I FULLY UNDERSTAND YOU WANT TO BE ALONE RIGHT NOW.
I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW, THE OFFER FOR COFFEE STILL STANDS. ANY TIME.
BANG BANG
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CALL ME BACK IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.

I KNOW IF YOU DO, YOU'LL PROBABLY SAY YOU'RE FINE. THAT YOU'RE OKAY.
AND MAYBE YOU ARE.
SWORDWALKERS
AND, YOU KNOW, ASSUMING YOU SURVIVE THE REST OF THE WEEK...WE SHOULD DO THIS MORE OFTEN.
PERHAPS OVER THE NEW SWORDWALKERS GAME? IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE QUITE ENJOYABLE.
THIS IS ABOUT BATMAN TAKING AWAY YOUR KATANA, ISN'T IT?
-SIGH- HOW DOES ANYONE THINK YOU'RE THE FUNNY ONE, NIGHTWING?
I'LL ORDER THE GAME, KUROSAWA.
GOOD. UNTIL THEN...
SO, AGAIN--IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND AND WANT TO TALK--
KZZT-KZTTT
GREAT. THAT'S JUST...
YEAH.
"I'M SURPRISED YOU CALLED ME BACK."

I'M SORRY. I WASN'T DODGING YOU, SONIA.
I KNOW, DICK.
SO, HOW'S THE BANK?
IT'S FINE.
BUT DO YOU REALLY WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE BANK?
HONESTLY, I'M NOT SURE I'M REALLY *IN* A TALKING MOOD.
DID I EVER TELL YOU ABOUT WHERE I GREW UP? I MEAN, AFTER... MY DAD...

AFTER YOUR DAD *KILLED* MY PARENTS?
YES.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ON YOUR OWN BY THEN.
BY THE TIME HE *DIED*, YES. BUT THE FIRST FEW YEARS, WHEN HE WAS ON THE RUN... I WASN'T *OLD* ENOUGH TO BE ON MY OWN.
AND I WAS TOO OLD FOR ANYONE TO ADOPT. OR, THAT'S WHAT IT SEEMED LIKE.
I REMEMBER THERE WAS ONE COUPLE--THE BENSONS. I REALLY THOUGHT THEY LIKED ME.
THEY HAD A PUPPY NAMED COCOA THAT WOULD JUMP ON MY BED IN THE MORNING AND CURL UP AND...
...
IT DOESN'T MATTER. THEY... DIDN'T THINK I WAS A GOOD FIT.
I DON'T MEAN TO BE INSENSITIVE, BUT WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS?
BECAUSE TRUSTING PEOPLE... LETTING THEM IN...IS *HARD* FOR ME.
YOU CAN'T CARE ABOUT PEOPLE AND THEN EXPECT YOURSELF NOT TO BE AFFECTED WHEN THEY GET HURT.
OR HURT YOU.
THEN MAYBE *YOUR* WAY IS BETTER.
THAT'S NOT...THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
DICK, YOU'RE AN AMAZING PERSON. YOU'RE OPEN AND GIVING, AND YOU GENUINELY *CARE* ABOUT PEOPLE... IN A BIG WAY.
*EVERYONE* HAS TIMES IN THEIR LIVES WHEN THEY NEED TO LEAN ON SOMEONE.
AND THAT'S *OKAY*. TRUST ME WHEN I TELL YOU...
...IT *DEFINITELY* BEATS MY WAY.
*I want to believe that she is right.*


I know I'm pulling away.
But after Bruce lying to me, the Joker terrorizing Haly's Circus, and now Damian...
...after everything that's happened, maybe it isn't the worst thing in the world...
...to be by myself for a while.
GET DRESSED.

We cover half the city without saying a word.
It's like the early days all over again.
After I first became Nightwing.
So many things to talk about...

...but I'll be damned if I'm going to be the one to start.
DO YOU KNOW THE DEALER?
YEAH. CREEPY GUY THAT RUNS MIRROR HOUSE, AN AUCTION SERVICE SPECIALIZING IN GOTHAM TRAGEDY ITEMS. I HAD A RUN-IN WITH HIM A LITTLE WHILE BACK.
HE'S HAD HIS MEN RAILING JOKER ATTACK SITES AROUND THE CITY. FOR AN AUCTION SET HERE. TONIGHT.
AND?
AND YOUR FATHER'S CIRCUS COSTUME IS ONE OF HIS FEATURED ITEMS.
I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT IT BACK.
SO WHAT AREN'T YOU TELLING ME?
I'M NOT KEEPING ANYTHING FROM YOU, NIGHTWING.
WELL, THAT'D BE A FIRST.
"AND MAY I REMIND YOU..."

...THIS PARTICULAR SET OF MECHANICAL TEETH IS RUMORED TO HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN RESTRAINING THE BATMAN--
THE DEALER'S AUCTION HOUSE...
--WHILE HE DISCOVERED THE THIRTY GOTHAM SOULS TRAPPED BENEATH THE RIVER.
HUZZAH!
NOW, I HAVE FIVE THOUSAND...GOING ONCE, GOING TWICE--
EIGHT THOUSAND, DEALER!
EIGHT THOUSAND! GOING ONCE... GOING TWICE...
...SOLD! TO THE GENTLEMAN IN BOOTH FOUR. AND ALLOW ME TO SAY BRAVO, SIR-- YOUR NEW TEETH WILL PAIR NICELY WITH YOUR NEW CHAINSAW.
NOW, THIS NEXT ITEM IS QUITE UNIQUE.
THOSE OF YOU WELL VERSED IN GOTHAM HISTORY WILL RECOGNIZE IT AS A SYMBOL OF TRAGEDY IN ITS OWN RIGHT.
HOWEVER, WITH ITS RECENT JOKERIZATION, WELL...
OOOOOOH!
...I'VE GAINED A WHOLE NEW APPRECIATION FOR THIS ITEM.
NOW THEN, FOR THIS ONE-OF-A-KIND FLYING GRAYSONS COSTUME...
I'LL OPEN THE BIDDING AT FIFTEEN THOUSAND!
THOOM

WHAT'S GOING ON?!
IS THIS A SCAM?!
NOBODY BETTER TOUCH MY CHAINSAW!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN/ PLEASE REMAIN CALM/ I ASSURE YOU, WE HAVE THE SITUATION--
ARGH!
THNK
HRK!
THNK
GAH!
THNK
THNK
ARHH!
I SWEAR TO GOD, DEALER...
SHH... SHHH...
...NOW, THEN. LET'S SEE EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE...
...FACING?
AUCTION'S OVER.

NO, I DON'T THINK IT QUITE IS!
FWOOOOM
Keep moving.
The ground plus the Nomex in my suit will smother the fire.
BRAKAKAKAKA
BRAKAKAKAKA
Just don't let the guns get on top of you.
GAH!
There's not a person in here who wouldn't pay to watch me die.
UGHH!
They don't care about anyone other than themselves.
DON'T SCRATCH MY CHAINSAW!
TEN THOUSAND FOR HIS HANDS!
TWENTY THOUSAND FOR HIS HAIR!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, CONSIDER THIS YOUR LUCKY NIGHT!
ONE-OF-A-KIND NIGHTWING ITEMS!
OR IN THE CASE OF ARMS AND LEGS, WE'LL AUCTION THEM BY THE PAIR!
VROOM VROOOM

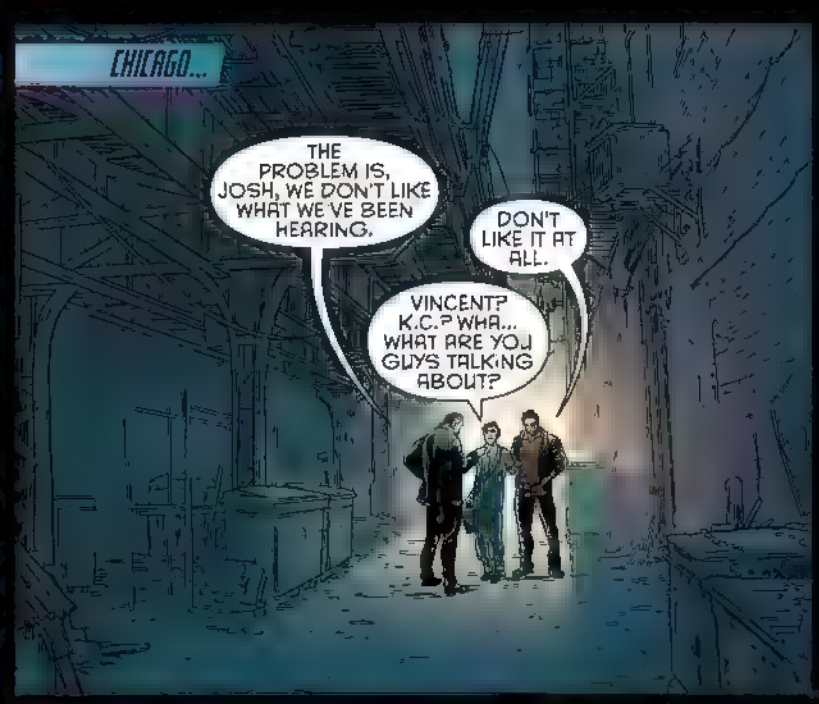
They think that darkness makes them divine.
THERE YOU HAVE IT--THE MARKET HAS SPOKEN!
VROOOOOM
PERSONALLY, I THINK AN EAR WOULD LOOK SPLENDID NEXT TO MY CATWOMAN WHIP.
VREEE
Maybe it does.
It's certainly easier.
AGH!
WELL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...
KRAK
...I'M SORRY TO SAY THAT WE'LL HAVE TO CONCLUDE OUR ACTIVITIES FOR THIS EVENING.
THE TIME FOR DEPARTING IS UPON US.
DEET
AND IN THE SPIRIT OF THE OCCASION.. I LEAVE YOU WITH THE LAST OF OUR AUCTION ITEMS--
BOOOOM
--THE JOKER'S LEFTOVER JET FUEL.

UNTIL NEXT TIME. AND THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A NEXT TIME IN GOTHAM...
Bodies are fleeing and the fire is spreading. Only a few ways out for me now.
Grab the costume, and then--
HELP! HELP US!
OH GOD, IT WON'T OPEN!
GET DOWN!
KSH
HH

OH, THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
MY LEG-- IT'S BROKEN...WE THOUGHT WE WERE DEAD...
NOBODY'S DYING TONIGHT.
OOF!
HERE WE GO.
I came here tonight to save the costume that belonged to my father.
But when the lives of four people (all of whom wanted me dead five minutes earlier) were at risk...
...it wasn't the costume that I cared about.
And given that choice...
...I know it never would be.

WAYNE MANOR.
LATER.
I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T BE HERE, DAMIAN. WHAT WITH ME BEING MAD AT YOU STILL.
RUNNING HEAD FIRST TO SAVE THE CITY...
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO DO THAT?
AND YOU TOTALLY COST ME A PHONE, EVEN IF I WAS THE ONE WHO THREW IT AGAINST MY WALL.
SO... THERE'S THAT, TOO.
SORRY...I'M NOT REALLY GOOD AT THIS AND IF YOU WERE HERE, I'M SURE YOU'D POINT THAT OUT, TOO.
"YOU KNOW, GRAYSON, ONE OF THE PERKS OF BEING DEAD IS THAT I CAN'T HEAR YOU..."
OR SOMETHING.
THESE LAST FEW WEEKS... PHEW. THEY'VE BEEN TOUGH, MAN.
YOU WERE MY BROTHER. IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD.
I LOVED YOU.
AND I WISH...
I JUST WISH...
...AW MAN...
...I JUST WISH I COULD HAVE BEEN THERE FOR YOU THE WAY YOU WERE THERE FOR ME.
BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW... YOU WERE RIGHT.
I KNOW WHAT MAKES ME WHO I AM...
...AND I'M NOT GOING TO CHANGE THAT.
"I HAD NO IDEA YOU LOST SOMEONE ELSE."

SONIA'S APARTMENT. LATER.
IT WAS ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO. JUST AFTER THE CIRCUS.
THIS ONE... IT'S GOING TO TAKE TIME. I KNOW THAT. BUT...
...WELL, MAYBE LEANING ON SOMEONE... MAYBE LETTING NEW PEOPLE IN... MAYBE THAT'S WHAT I NEED, SONIA.
LISTEN...THERE'S SOMETHING WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT.
AND THERE'S NEVER GOING TO BE THE RIGHT TIME TO DO IT.
BUT... I WANT TO TRUST YOU, DICK.
AND I WANT YOU TO TRUST ME. SO I'M GOING TO TELL YOU.
EVEN THOUGH YOU MAY NEVER WANT TO SPEAK TO ME AGAIN ONCE I DO.
WHATEVER THIS, SONIA... YOU CAN TELL ME.
YOU'RE SURE?
I'M SURE.
IT'S BETTER IF YOU READ IT FOR YOURSELF.
OKAY...
IS THIS... SOME KIND OF JOKE?


CHICAGO...
THE PROBLEM IS, JOSH, WE DON'T LIKE WHAT WE'VE BEEN HEARING.
DON'T LIKE IT AT ALL.
VINCENT? K.C.? WHA... WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?

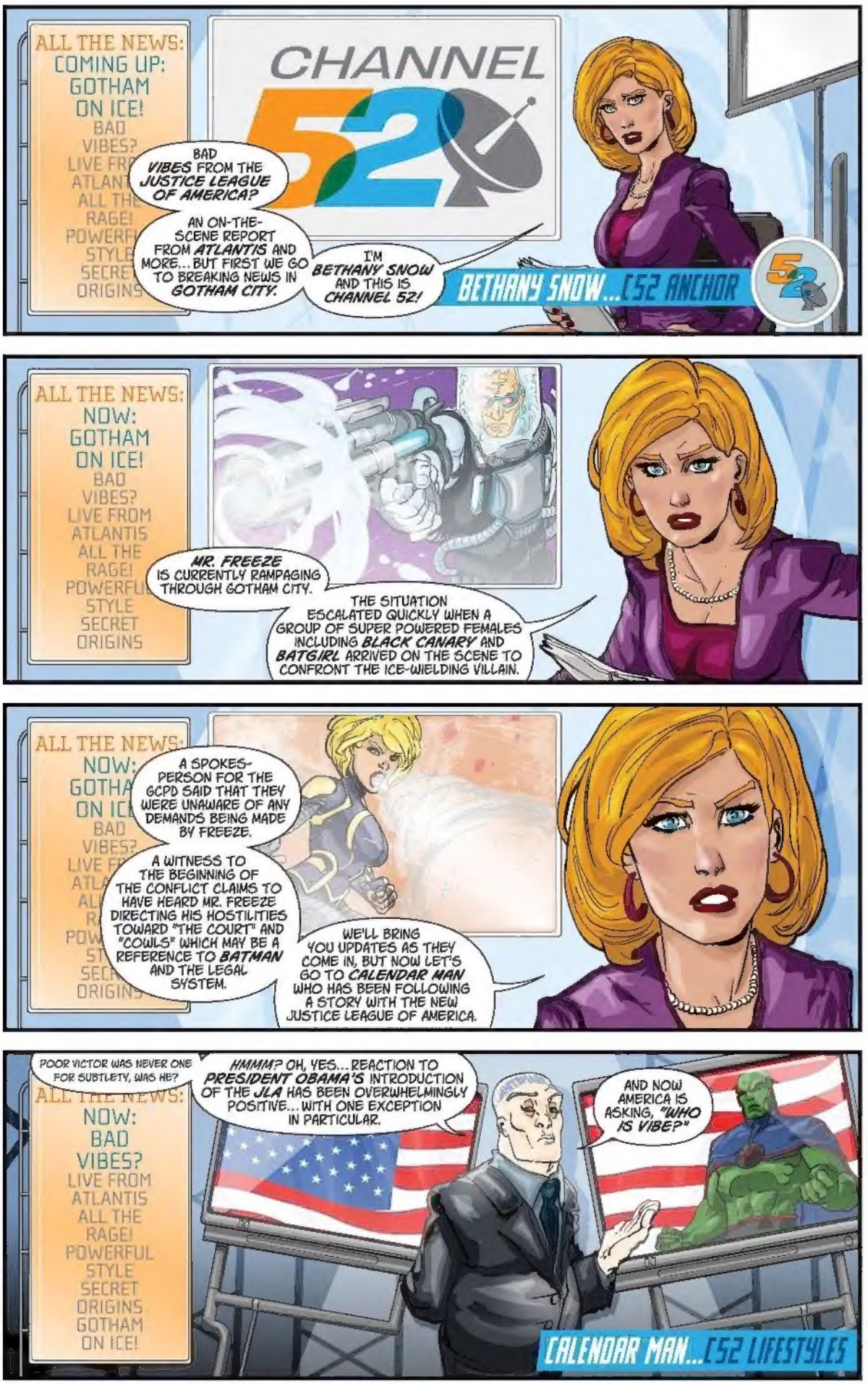
IT'S *NOT* A JOKE, DICK.

CONSIDER THIS YOUR FINAL WARNING. IF THE LABOR MONEY DOESN'T COME IN... THIS GUN STOPS BEING FOR *SHOW*. WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER?
YEAH... YEAH, VINCENT... I GOT IT!

I WAS *THERE*, SONIA. I WAS AT THE *FUNERAL*.

WHAT, YOU'RE TELLING ME IT WAS *FAKED*?
I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* IT WAS.
THEN HOW--
THE E-MAIL CAME SIX MONTHS AGO. AND THE PICTURE IT MENTIONS, WITH THE DOG COCOA...I TOOK A PICTURE WITH THAT DOG AND *GAVE* IT TO HIM, BEFORE HE "DIED."

IT'S DONE. THEY THINK I'LL SELL OUT THE LABOR BOARD.
GOOD...
SONIA...
ALL I KNOW FOR SURE IS THAT HE'S *ALIVE*, DICK...
"...*TONY ZUCCO* IS STILL ALIVE."
I'LL LET THE BIG GUY KNOW.
NEXT ISSUE: NEW CITY! NEW FRIENDS! NEW FOES!
AND THE HUNT FOR TONY ZUCCO BEGINS!


ALL THE NEWS:
COMING UP:
GOTHAM
ON ICE!
BAD
VIBES?
LIVE FR
ATLANT
ALL THE
RAGE!
POWERFU
STYLE
SECRET
ORIGINS
CHANNEL
52
BAD VIBES FROM THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA?
AN ON-THE-SCENE REPORT FROM ATLANTIS AND MORE... BUT FIRST WE GO TO BREAKING NEWS IN GOTHAM CITY.
I'M BETHANY SNOW AND THIS IS CHANNEL 52!
BETHANY SNOW...C52 ANCHOR
ALL THE NEWS:
NOW:
GOTHAM
ON ICE!
BAD
VIBES?
LIVE FROM
ATLANTIS
ALL THE
RAGE!
POWERFUL
STYLE
SECRET
ORIGINS
MR. FREEZE IS CURRENTLY RAMPAGING THROUGH GOTHAM CITY.
THE SITUATION ESCALATED QUICKLY WHEN A GROUP OF SUPER POWERED FEMALES INCLUDING BLACK CANARY AND BATGIRL ARRIVED ON THE SCENE TO CONFRONT THE ICE-WIELDING VILLAIN.
ALL THE NEWS:
NOW:
GOTHA
ON ICE
BAD
VIBES?
LIVE FR
ATLA
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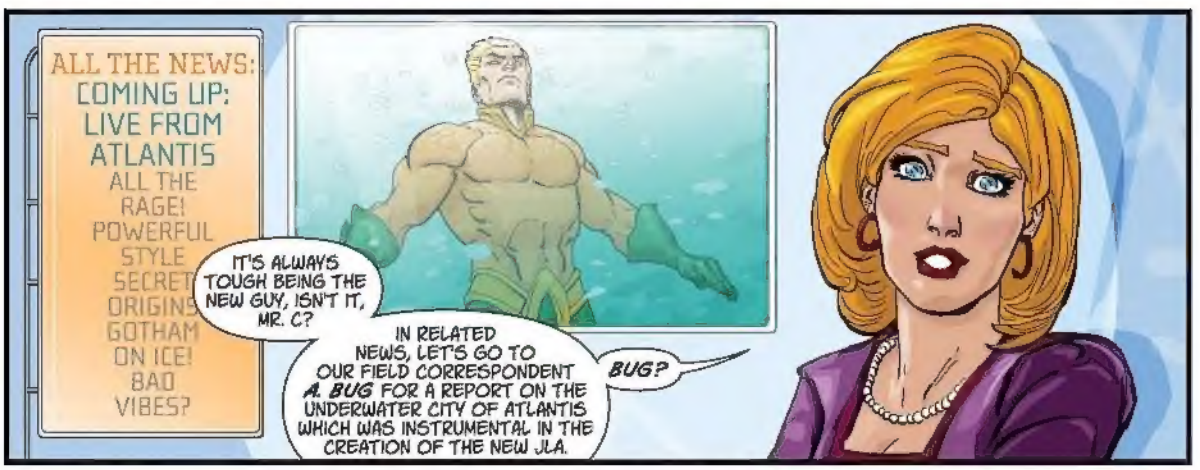
ST
SECR
ORIGINS
A SPOKES-PERSON FOR THE GCPD SAID THAT THEY WERE UNAWARE OF ANY DEMANDS BEING MADE BY FREEZE.
A WITNESS TO THE BEGINNING OF THE CONFLICT CLAIMS TO HAVE HEARD MR. FREEZE DIRECTING HIS HOSTILITIES TOWARD "THE COURT" AND "COWLS" WHICH MAY BE A REFERENCE TO BATMAN AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM.
WE'LL BRING YOU UPDATES AS THEY COME IN, BUT NOW LET'S GO TO CALENDAR MAN WHO HAS BEEN FOLLOWING A STORY WITH THE NEW JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA.
POOR VICTOR WAS NEVER ONE FOR SUBTLETY, WAS HE?
ALL THE NEWS:
NOW:
BAD
VIBES?
LIVE FROM
ATLANTIS
ALL THE
RAGE!
POWERFUL
STYLE
SECRET
ORIGINS
GOTHAM
ON ICE!
HMMM? OH, YES... REACTION TO PRESIDENT OBAMA'S INTRODUCTION OF THE JLA HAS BEEN OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE... WITH ONE EXCEPTION IN PARTICULAR.
AND NOW AMERICA IS ASKING, "WHO IS VIBE?"
CALENDAR MAN...C52 LIFESTYLES

AMONG THE IMPRESSIVE ROSTER OF THE TEAM WHICH PRESENTED *ITSELF* AS THE NEW PROTECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES, VIBE STOOD OUT SIMPLY BY NOT STANDING OUT.
LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THE YOUNG MAN OTHER THAN FROM A FEW SIGHTINGS AROUND THE DETROIT AREA.
THERE ARE ALREADY RUMORS THAT HIS TEAMMATES DOUBT VIBE'S ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE ON SUCH A LARGE STAGE, AND THIS LEAVES US ALL WONDERING IF HE'LL LAST--OR EVEN *LIVE* MUCH LONGER.
SECRET ORIGINS
GOTHAM ON ICE!


ALL THE NEWS:
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LIVE FROM ATLANTIS
ALL THE RAGE!
POWERFUL STYLE
SECRET ORIGINS
GOTHAM ON ICE!
BAD VIBES?
IT'S ALWAYS TOUGH BEING THE NEW GUY, ISN'T IT, MR. C?
IN RELATED NEWS, LET'S GO TO OUR FIELD CORRESPONDENT *A. BUG* FOR A REPORT ON THE UNDERWATER CITY OF ATLANTIS WHICH WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE CREATION OF THE NEW JLA.
*BUG?*

ALL THE NEWS:
COMING UP:
LIVE FROM ATLANTIS
ALL THE RAGE!
POWERFUL STYLE
SECRET ORIGINS
GOTHAM ON ICE!
CHANNEL 52
IT LOOKS LIKE BUG IS HAVING SOME TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES--REPORTING FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE OCEAN.
WE'LL GO BACK TO HIM WHEN WE GET IT ALL SORTED OUT.
YOU'RE WATCHING *CHANNEL 52!*

# NAHGA